



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Budget 2021

PRLS' 2022 budget was approved by the board and will be sent out to the municipalities next week. Including the 2022 budget there will be no increase in the per-capita requisition for three consecutive years.

Movement of Reserve Funds

The finance policy has been changed to define more clearly who has the right to move reserve funds. In policy 4.4.13 "Finance Fund Accounts", the policy stated the: *"Movement of funds to or from fund accounts must be accompanied by a motion or according to policy."*

Since Parkland now has an Advocacy Committee and could potentially have others, the Board changed its policy to limit the authorization to move funds to the Executive Committee and the Board.

Policy now states:

*Movement of funds to or from fund accounts must be accompanied by a motion **from either the Board or Executive Committee**, or according to policy.*

Personnel Policy Revision

Policy statement 4.10.2 previously specified that:

The Board must be informed of changes to Parkland Regional Library System's organizational chart. The creation of new positions requiring the establishment of new job descriptions or the elimination of positions requiring the deletion of job descriptions must be approved by the Board.

Originally this provision was put in place to ensure the board had control over significant staffing changes at Parkland.

In an environment of constant change and shrinking budgets, alterations to both Parkland's organizational chart and the creation and deletion of positions is likely to become more frequent as Parkland endeavors to be nimble and responsive to the environment while also facing increasing financial constraints.

After discussing the matter, the Board dropped the provision requiring that the Board have final authority over the creation and deletion of job descriptions and was content with the policy that:

The Board must be informed of changes to Parkland Regional Library's organizational chart.

With this policy, the Board can still recall the decision of Parkland's Director should the need arise.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Recently, the Government of Canada passed a bill creating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a new statutory holiday to commemorate the legacy of residential schools in Canada. The bill creates a statutory holiday for employees in the federal government and federally-regulated workplaces. This holiday will be observed on September 30th of each calendar year, beginning this month.

The Government of Alberta has no imminent plans to add this holiday to the Employment Standards Code, and as such, it is currently not considered a general holiday in Alberta. However, employers including library boards may choose to recognize this holiday. This year Parkland will remain open, since most of our libraries are remaining open. So far 16 libraries will be closed on September 30th, although 7 of that number would have been closed anyway.

The new statutory holiday was announced on short notice and caught many organizations unaware. Parkland will likely start observing the holiday next year assuming the majority of our member libraries do the same.

OverDrive and eSharing eResources

Since 2019, Parkland has been sharing eBooks and eAudio books from its CloudLibrary Collection with the four library systems that make up The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC). This ability to 'interlibrary loan' eContent has saved countless dollars and proved to be a hugely beneficial service to library patrons.

Following on this success, Parkland has recently entered another agreement with both TRAC and Edmonton Public Library (EPL) to share the eBooks and eAudio books available on our other major eContent platform OverDrive. Calgary Public Library is also considering participation in this program.

There will be no cost for this service. OverDrive has long been considered to be the premier eContent provider, so not only will this partnership be of tremendous financial value and improve service, it also demonstrates to funders how public libraries are always seeking to leverage partnerships for the purposes of efficiency and sustainability.

Advocacy Committee Report

The Advocacy Committee thanks the Parkland Board for its service the last four years. The Advocacy Committee has been collaborating with Yellowhead Regional Library, and it has been a fruitful union. Some tools that have come out of their work are:

- A welcome package for all councillors elected in October
- Return on Municipal Levy that complements the Municipal Return on Investment
- A guide to appointing a Trustee for the Parkland Board

Board Members Present

Debra Smith (Board Chair)

Board Members Present via Zoom

Jackie Almberg, Alison Barker-Jevne, Doreen Blumhagen, Colleen Ebdon, Kevin Ferguson, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Sandy Gamble, Bruce Gartside, Barb Gilliat, Jeanette Herle, Agnes Hoveland, Deborah Juch, Cora Knutson, Dana Kreil, Gord Lawlor, Daryl Lougheed, Josephine McKenzie, Julie Maplethorpe, Philip Massier, Blair Morton, Leah Nelson, Ray Olfert, Terilyn Paulgaard, Jas Payne,

Norma Penney, Rosella Peterman, Len Phillips, Heidi Pierce, Lori Reid, Danny Rieberger, Bill Rock, Janine Stannard, Les Stulberg, Patricia Toone, Cindy Trautman, Doug Weir, Shannon Wilcox, Sharon Williamson, Bill Windsor, Bonita Wood

Guests

Ken Allan from Public Library Services Branch (PLSB)

With Regrets

Heather Ryan, Clark German, Stephen Levy, Mary Ann Wold

Absent

Bill Chandler, Amanda Derksen, Trudy Kilner, Lonnie Kozlinski, Guy Lapointe, Ricci Matthews, Rick Pankiw, Mike Yargeau

Staff

Ron Sheppard, Donna Williams, Colleen Schalm, Tim Spark, Kara Hamilton, Haley Amendt

Next Meeting: November 4, 2021, 10:00 AM

(Zoom)